

# **AB 2681 – VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS: ABANDONED VEHICLE FUND**

---

## **Assemblymember Fran Pavley**

### **IN BRIEF**

---

Allows counties to increase the annual registration surcharges that fund abandoned vehicle abatement programs, and increases the fine imposed for "fix-it" tickets.

### **THE ISSUE**

---

1) The Abandoned Vehicle Program was established in 1991 to help reimburse local governments for the costs of removing abandoned vehicles. Although the program has been a success from an environmental and public safety standpoint, local government costs now far exceed the current reimbursement levels. The current fee charged has not changed in over 15 years. Local governments, given current tight fiscal constraints, cannot continue to subsidize this program. For example, in 2004, the City of Sacramento spent \$820,000 abating 9,288 vehicles but was reimbursed only \$446,182 (54% of the cost).

2) Motorists who have equipment violations (anything from broken lights to failure to properly display a license plate) are allowed to pay a reduced fine of \$10.00 if they verify that the violation is fixed within a certain time. Unfortunately, the local costs of writing, administering, and enforcing "fix-it" tickets exceeds the current \$10.00 penalty, which has not been changed since 1993.

### **EXISTING LAW**

---

Authorizes a county, where the board of supervisors has approved by a two-thirds vote, to establish a service authority for the abatement of abandoned vehicles and impose a \$1 vehicle registration fee on all vehicles and an additional \$2 fee upon all commercial motor vehicles that weigh over 10,000 pounds. Moneys collected are required to be deposited in the Abandoned Vehicle Trust Fund. The money is to be used for the abatement, removal, and disposal, of an abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, or inoperative vehicle from private or public property.

Vehicle registration fee surcharges are imposed in 37 of the state's 58 counties in order to fund programs for the abatement of abandoned vehicles.

Allows motorists who have equipment violations to pay a reduced fine of \$10.00 if they verify that the violation is fixed within a certain time.

### **THE SOLUTION**

---

AB 2681 would:

- Increase the current \$1.00 fee to no more than \$2.00, and the current \$2.00 fee to no more than \$4.00 to help local governments aggressively continue enforcing this program;
- Increase the current \$10.00 penalty to \$20.00 which is reflective of the actual costs of the "fix-it" program.

### **SUPPORT**

---

California Public Parking Association (sponsor); Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (co-sponsor); California State Sheriffs' Association (co-sponsor); Asso. for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs (ALADS); California Fraternal Order of Police; California State Association of Counties; City of San Jose; LA County Professional Peace Officers Asso.; League of California Cities; Long Beach Police Officers Association; Regional Council of Rural Counties; Santa Ana Police Officers Association; Riverside Sheriffs' Association; Counties of Del Norte, El Dorado, Mendocino, Merced, Stanislaus and San Luis Obispo; Alameda County Sheriff; El Dorado County Sheriff; Imperial County Sheriff; Kings County Sheriff; Marin County Sheriff; Mendocino County Sheriff; Nevada County Sheriff; Plumas County Sheriff; Riverside County Sheriff; Sacramento County Sheriff; Santa Barbara County Sheriff; Santa Cruz County Sheriff; Stanislaus County Sheriff; Ventura County Sheriff; Yolo County Sheriff

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

---

Staff: Debra Gravert, (916) 319-2344  
[debra.gravert@asm.ca.gov](mailto:debra.gravert@asm.ca.gov)